

CHAPTER XXII.

BARNs AND BARN BUILDING.

331. General Plans. It would require a full volume to do justice to this subject. Success in breeding depends so much upon the manner in which mares are housed, that a brief mention of the subject is made necessary in this work. Only the general principles of barn building will be discussed, however, and these but briefly.

332. Ventilation. One of the essential things in housing horses which are to be used for breeding purposes, is that of ventilation. Too much fresh air can not be provided for them, and this can be supplied best by having high ceilings and admitting the air near the ceiling. This will make it impossible for direct draughts to fall upon the horses. Bad or vitiated air can be best disposed of by air shafts running from the roof to near the floor. If the poisonous gases are thus drawn off, and the ceiling high above the horses, the general health of the animals will be good. Colds are seldom known in barns where fresh air is supplied in abundance.

333. Sunlight. Of equal importance for the health of the horse is plenty of sunlight. It is not only the best and cheapest germicide known, but the eyes of horses kept in barns well lighted are always better than those housed in dark and poorly lighted places. An abundance of light can be given a barn, and with very little expense by the use of windows wherever a space can be found for one. If small windows are used placed well up to the ceiling, they can also be the source of fresh air, and these are the two essentials, if health be desired in a breeding barn.

334. Drainage. In the building of a barn good drainage should also be secured. If the barn is located in a city having a sewer system already established it can be easily drained and kept in a sanitary condition by connecting the drainage with the sewer. If the barn is to be built in the country or in a small town, it should be built on an elevation admitting of good drainage. Unless good drainage is provided one need never expect his horses to remain in a thrifty and healthful condition.

335. Floors. In barn building, never make a floor of wood in any part of the barn to be occupied by horses. A wooden floor can not be kept in a strictly sanitary condition by any known means. If any floor other than earth is to be made, let it be of concrete. No floor ever built under a horse has so many good qualities as concrete or cement. Such a floor can be built that